

THSMF FAMILY TIMES



1301 Jack Warner Parkway N.E., Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35404
Telephone: 205-462-4500

February 2019

The Department of Mental Health's website (www.mh.alabama.gov) will be "frozen" in early October to allow for redesign of the website. The website is expected to be updated and accessible in the Spring of 2019. Our newsletter will continue to be available on Taylor Hardin's Facebook page.

Your comments are important to us. Next time you visit, please take a few moments to fill out a "Family/Friend Questionnaire." The questionnaires are on yellow paper and are kept in a wood holder in our lobby. If you need assistance locating one, let us know and we will help you out. The questionnaire has twelve questions and will only take a few minutes to complete. Your feedback helps us to improve on what we do and how we do it.

Rights Highlight:

This month we are focusing on the rights of **Informed Consent and Due Process.**

Informed Consent - Social Workers provide rights & responsibilities education within 72 hours of admission. Patients and the identified next-of-kin (with consent) will receive a Patient and Family Handbook outlining the Rights and Responsibilities. The Advocate is also available to answer any additional questions you may have.

Due Process - A patient's rights cannot be taken away without justification and should be restored when the Treatment Team determines that they are again able to exercise their rights. The Treatment Team reviews any restriction of rights at least every 14 days.

Patient Advocates at THSMF are Tammy Woods and Julie Hinson.

THSMF's main telephone number is 205-462-4500. You may choose to use the automated system in which you select a number for the department and then staff member you want to speak to.

If you have a question related to treatment progress, Treatment Team meetings, visitation, etc. and want to speak with the social worker, you may call directly as listed below:

- Lori Ellard, Director of Social Work 205-462-4650
- Laci Jones, Placement Coordinator 205-462-4652
- Sarah Garner, ACE Program 205-462-4656
- Gabrielle Franklin, BEST Program 205-462-4651
- Jessica Hanby, BEST Program 205-462-4658
- April Deslattes, CARE Program 205-462-4657
- Melinda Bennett, CARE Program, 205-462-4659
- Brittney McCreary, DREAM Program, 205-462-4655



PLEASE UNDERSTAND WE CAN ONLY RELEASE INFORMATION WITH PROPER CONSENT.

Please leave a voice mail if we are out of the office and we will return your call as soon as possible.

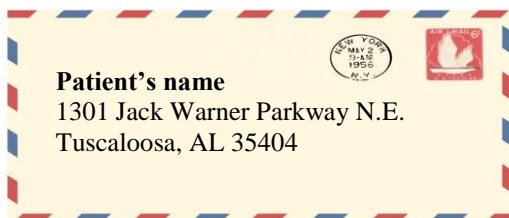
Family Education classes meet from 10 – 11:30 a.m. on the 3rd Friday in February, March, May, June, August, September, and November. The Advocacy Meeting is held in January, April, July, and October at the same time. Visitation begins at 11:30AM for those attending the meetings.

Our Family Education Class is all about providing education and support to you – our families. We want you to feel comfortable to come to class, to ask questions or to just sit quietly and listen. We use different tools (handouts, videos, discussion) during the classes to provide the best learning environment. We want to help you learn more about mental health and THSMF.

Sending Mail?

Effective 8/1/18, THSMF patients may not receive packages from family/friends, etc. Family members/friends, etc. may send money (check or money order only) to your loved one (relative only) and they may purchase canteen items or request to purchase items allowed on their program through THSMF staff. Cash will not be accepted via mail. Please speak with the social worker if you have questions. Any packages received will be returned and/or placed in the patient's personal possessions.

When sending mail, please make sure to put your loved one's name on the envelope.



If you have any questions or concerns about your loved one's care & treatment, safety, or a medical condition that may require immediate assessment or care, please let staff know immediately.



Have a question or comment about the newsletter? Contact Lori Ellard, LICSW by phone at 205-462-4650 or by email at Lori.Ellard@hardin.mh.alabama.gov



Visitation Reminders:

- All visitors must be pre-approved.
- One drink item and one food item only and both items must be purchased from the THSMF vending machines.
- Bring pictured identification if over the age of 16.
- No cell phones, umbrellas, coats, bags, tobacco products, weapons, or lighters are allowed.
- You will be asked to clear the metal detector prior to entering the visitation area
- Once entering the visitation area, you will not be allowed to exit and re-enter.
- Special visits must be requested at least seven days in advance of the desired visit date.

Passing unacceptable items to a patient at Taylor Hardin is “promoting contraband”, and can be illegal, just as it would be in jail. Unacceptable items include tobacco, tobacco products, cash, lighters, medications, street drugs, money (including coins), pens and other sharp items, alcohol, cell phones, and anything else labeled as contraband.

Any visitor who assists or attempts to assist in escape plans, schemes for creating disorder, or passes or attempts to pass any unacceptable item will not be allowed further visits and **will be subject to criminal action.**